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**JACK L. WARNER'S**  
Production of

Authorized Edition



# 1776

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

1776

**NO. 1  
MAR.  
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**ONLY  
20¢**



the  
award-winning  
musical

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## IT WAS A GREAT YEAR!

ON MARCH 16, 1969, A NEW MUSICAL OPENED ON BROADWAY. IT WAS "1776" AND WHEN THE CURTAIN WENT DOWN, THE FIRST NIGHT AUDIENCE ROSE TO ITS FEET IN A RARE AND SPONTANEOUS OVATION THAT MARKED ONE OF THE THEATRE'S MOST UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.

MORE THAN THREE YEARS LATER, AFTER WINNING BOTH THE COVETED TONY AWARD AND THE NEW YORK DRAMA CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD AS "BEST MUSICAL", **1776** WAS BROUGHT TO THE MOTION PICTURE SCREEN BY JACK L. WARNER FOR COLUMBIA PICTURES.

VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE CAST AND NEARLY ALL THE CREATIVE ARTISTS FROM THE STAGE PRODUCTION WERE BROUGHT TO HOLLYWOOD TO MAKE THE MOVIE. THE RESULT IS A FANTASTICALLY BEAUTIFUL AND EXCITING PICTURE THAT EVERYONE WILL LOVE.





# 1776

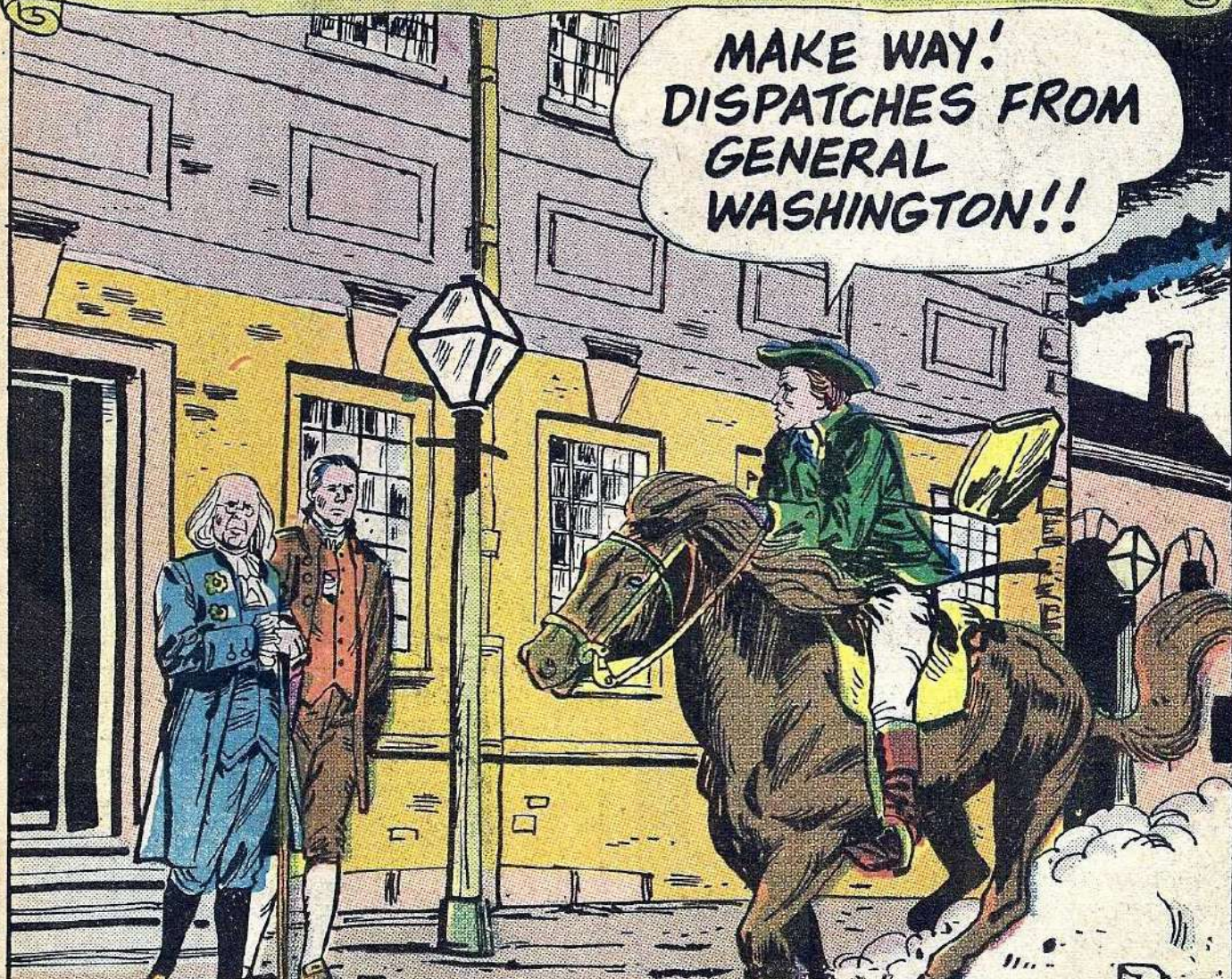
IT WAS THE SUMMER OF 1776 AND THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS WAS MEETING AT INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA. PRESENT WERE GREAT MEN OF THEIR TIME... JOHN ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS, RICHARD HENRY LEE, VIRGINIA, ROGER SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT, THOMAS JEFFERSON, VIRGINIA, THE BRILLIANT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, A NATIVE OF PHILADELPHIA... THESE MEN,

AND OTHERS, GATHERED TOGETHER IN A STORMY SESSION TO ASSIST IN ONE OF THE NOBLEST WORKS OF MANKIND... THE BIRTH OF A MIGHTY NATION...

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

WHILE THEY MET HERE, GEORGE WASHINGTON, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, TRIED TO KEEP HIS POORLY EQUIPPED AND SUPPLIED TROOPS IN THE FIELD AGAINST THE BRITISH ARMY!

MAKE WAY!  
DISPATCHES FROM  
GENERAL  
WASHINGTON!!



ART...TONY TALLARICO

ADAPTATION...JOE GILL

1776, Charlton Classics Library, Vol. 10, No. 1, March, 1973.

published bimonthly by Charlton Press, Inc., at Charlton Building, Division St., Derby, Conn. 06418. 20¢ per copy. Subscription \$1.20 annually. Printed in U.S.A. Geo. Wildman, Managing Editor. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended. This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price. It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price.

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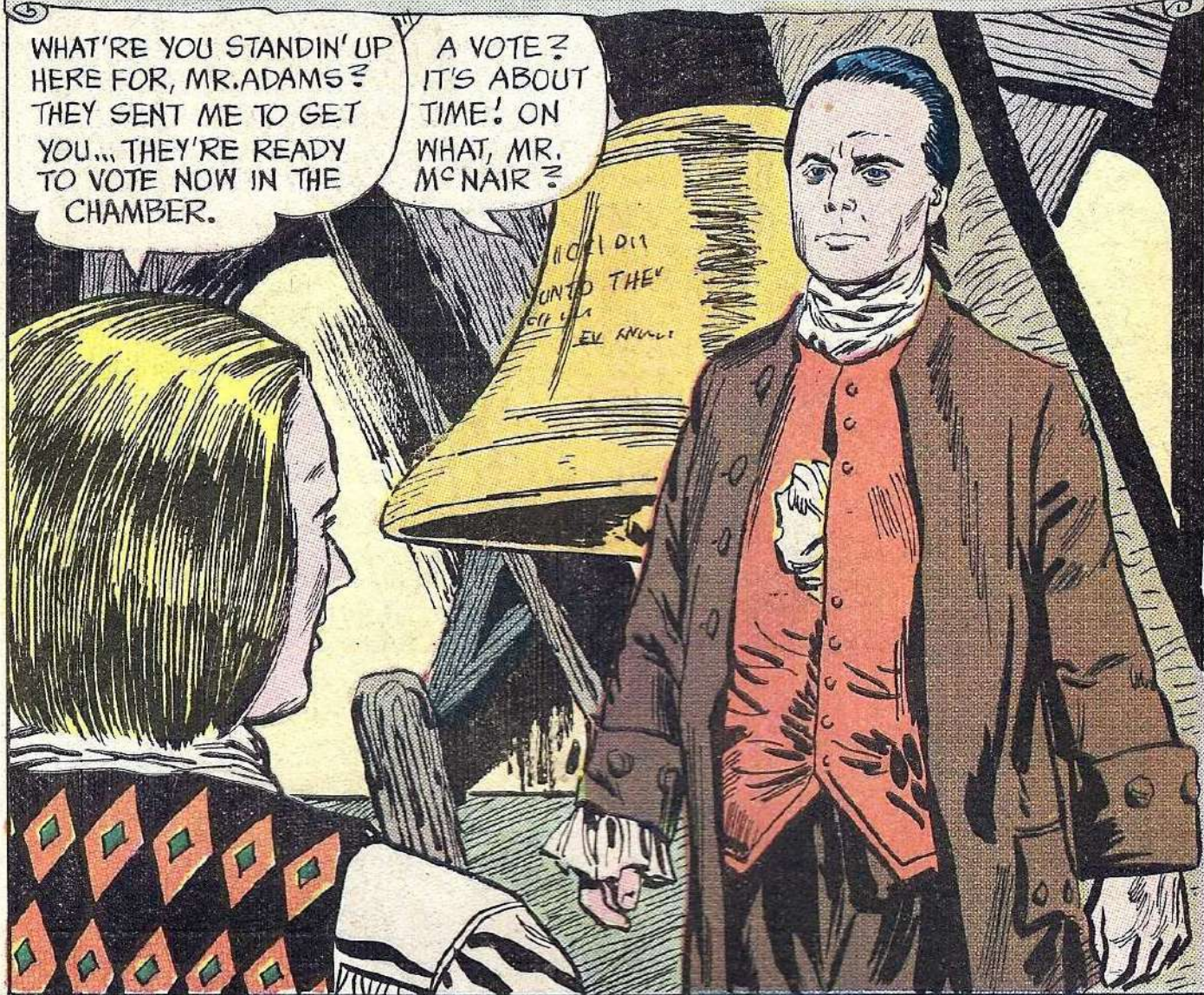
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JOHN ADAMS OF MASSACHUSETTS WAS THE MOST ZEALOUS ADVOCATE OF INDEPENDENCE... HE WAS IMPATIENT WITH THE BICKERING AND PETTY QUARRELS THAT WENT ON IN THE GREAT HALL BELOW... SO HE SOUGHT TRANQUILITY IN THE TOWER OF INDEPENDENCE HALL... DRAWING COMFORT FROM THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MIGHTY LIBERTY BELL...

WHAT'RE YOU STANDIN' UP HERE FOR, MR. ADAMS? THEY SENT ME TO GET YOU... THEY'RE READY TO VOTE NOW IN THE CHAMBER.

A VOTE? IT'S ABOUT TIME! ON WHAT, MR. MCNAIR?



ON WHETHER OR NOT THE MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND MILITIA BE REQUIRED TO WEAR MATCHING UNIFORMS!

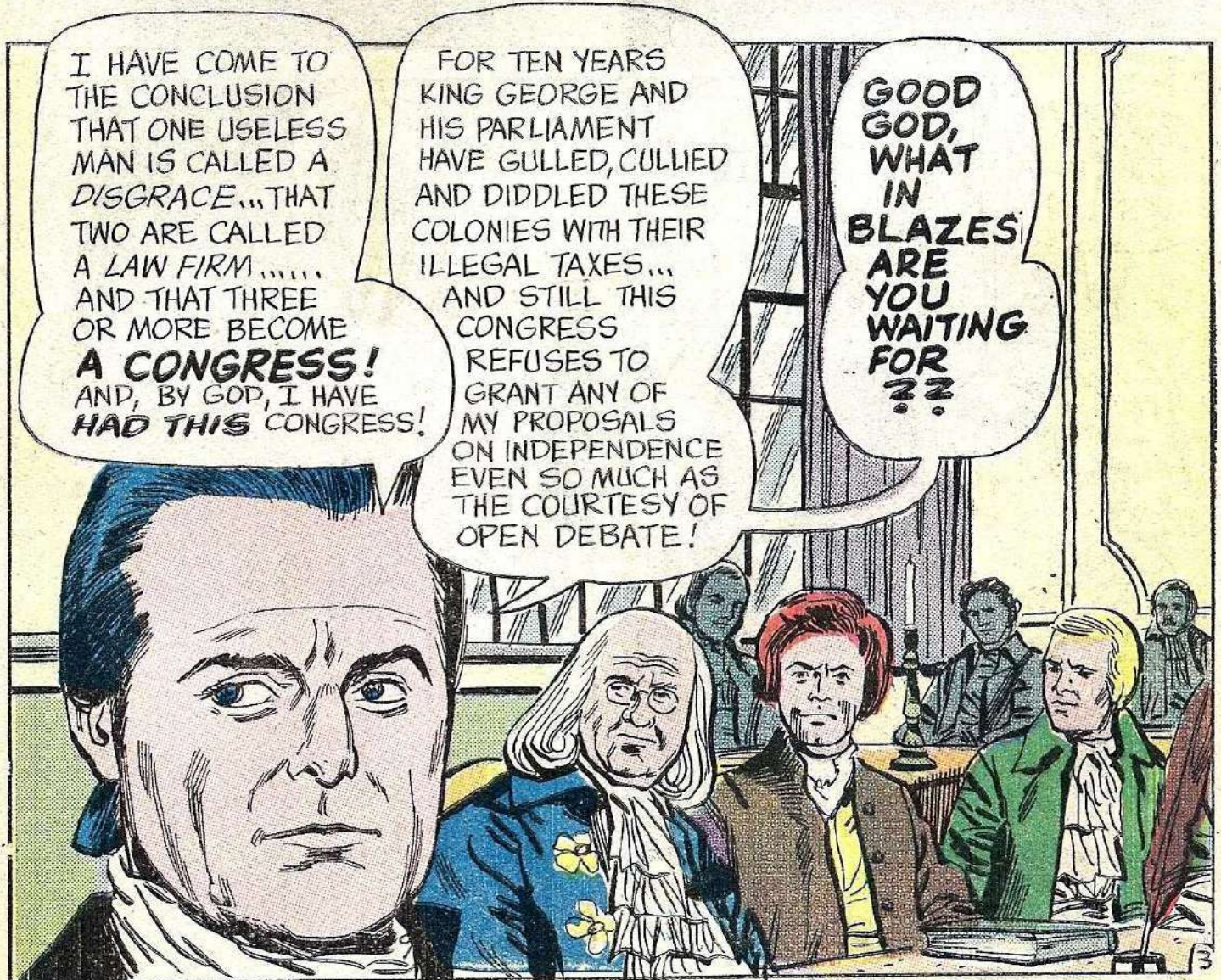
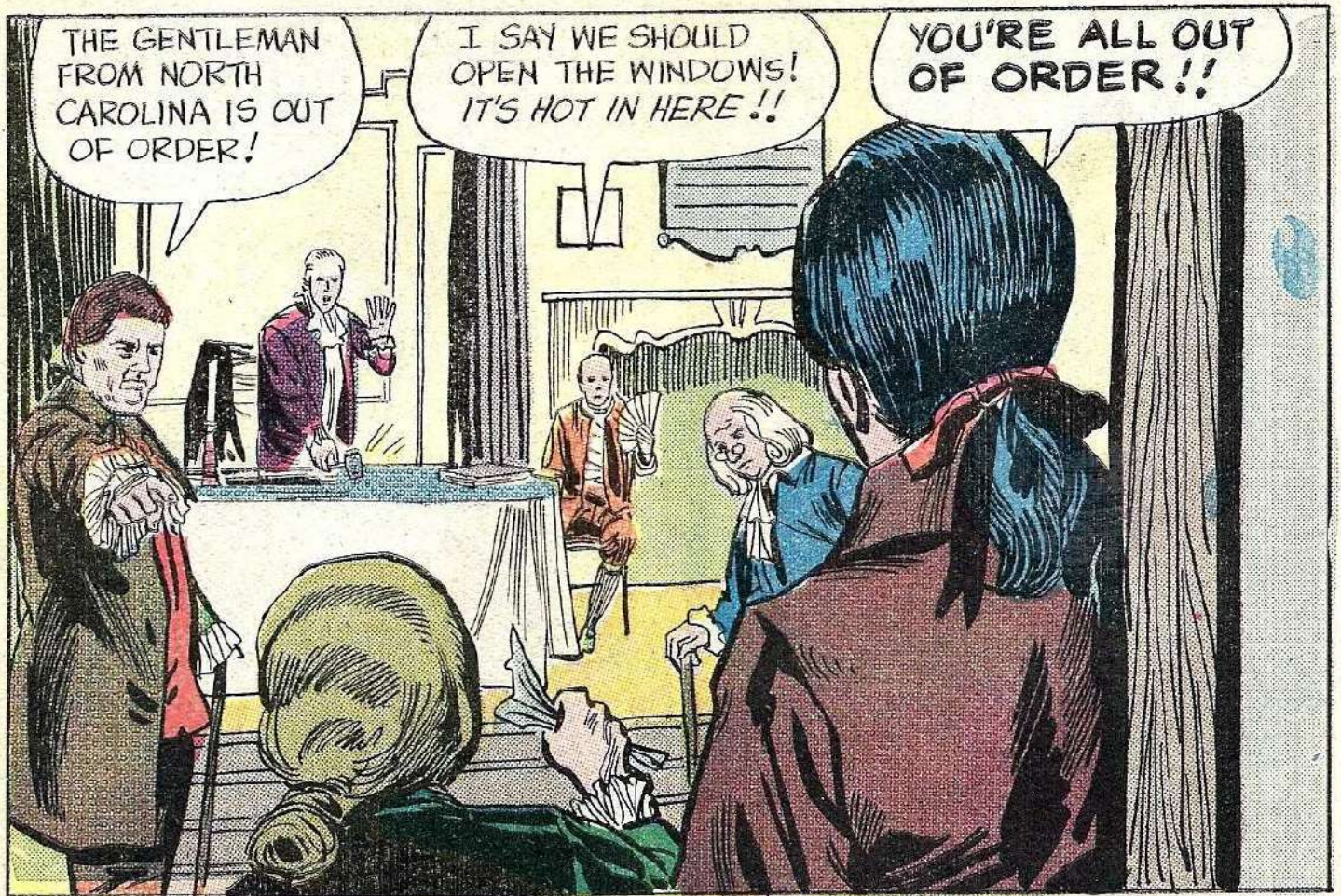
OH, GOOD GOD!



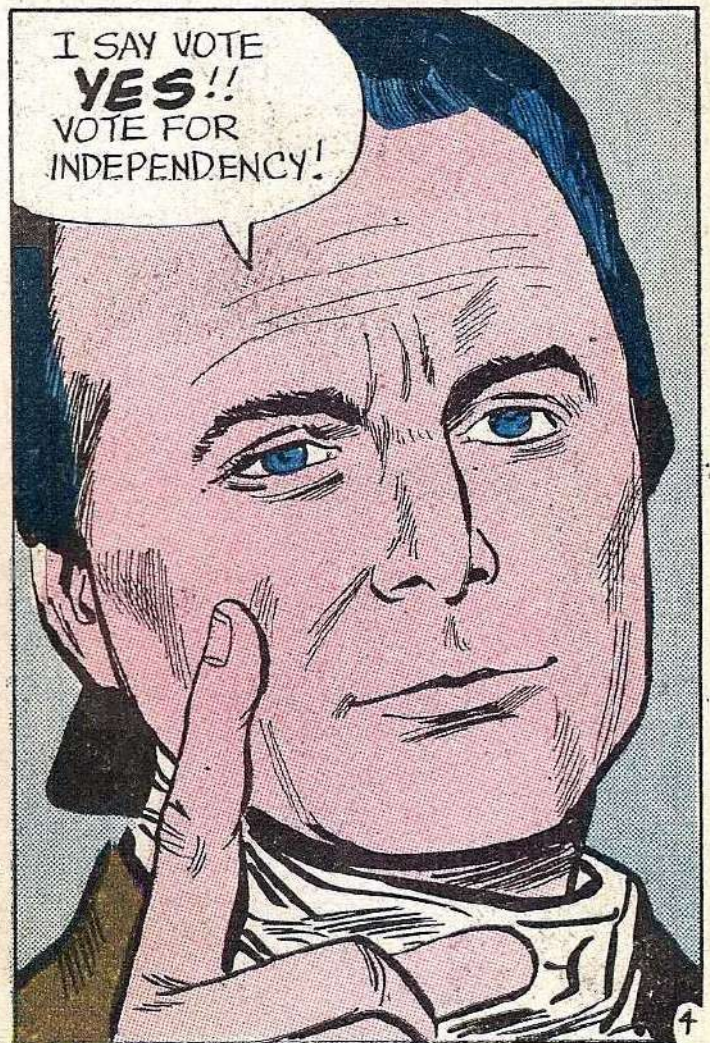
I OBJECT!



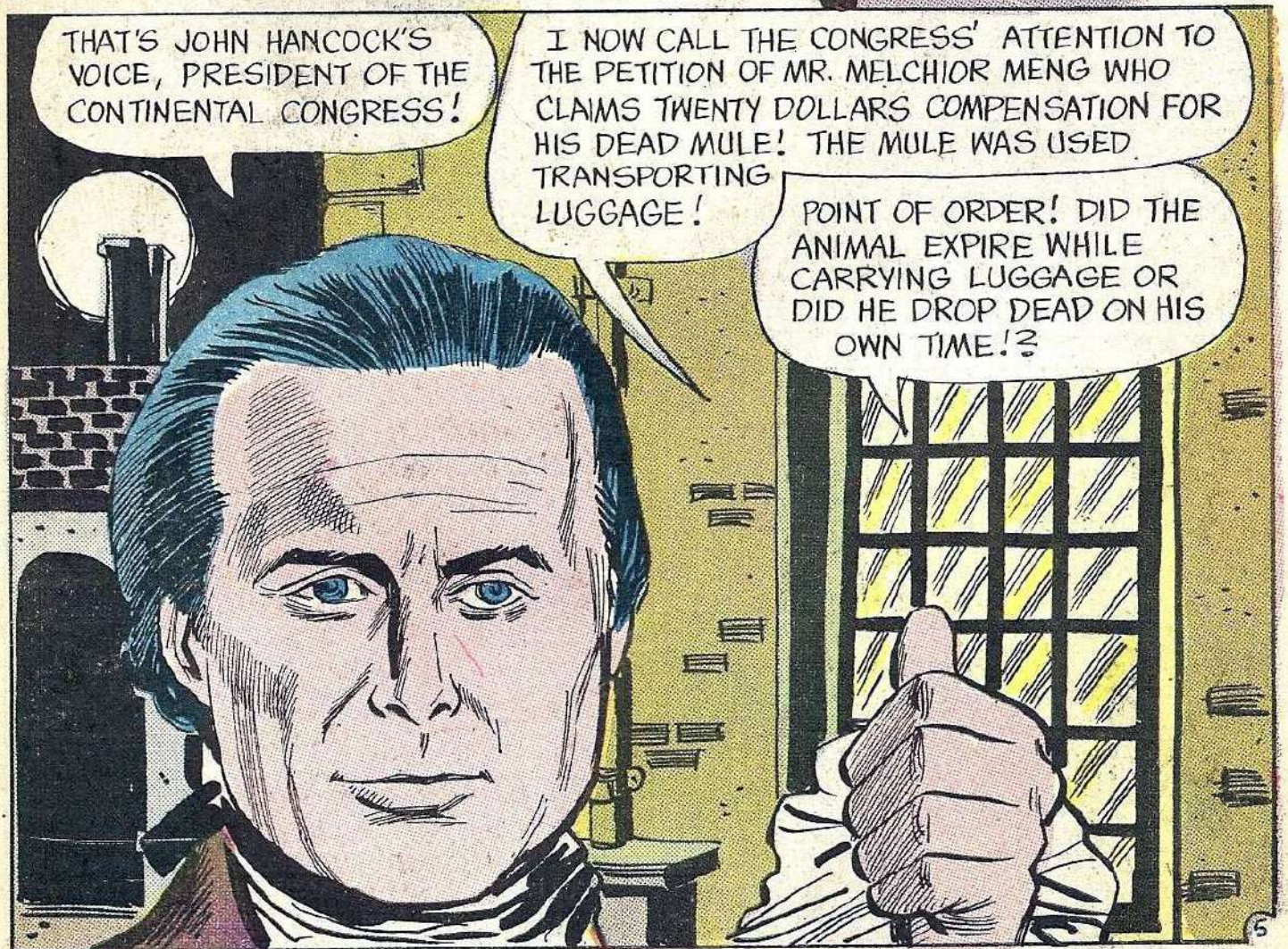
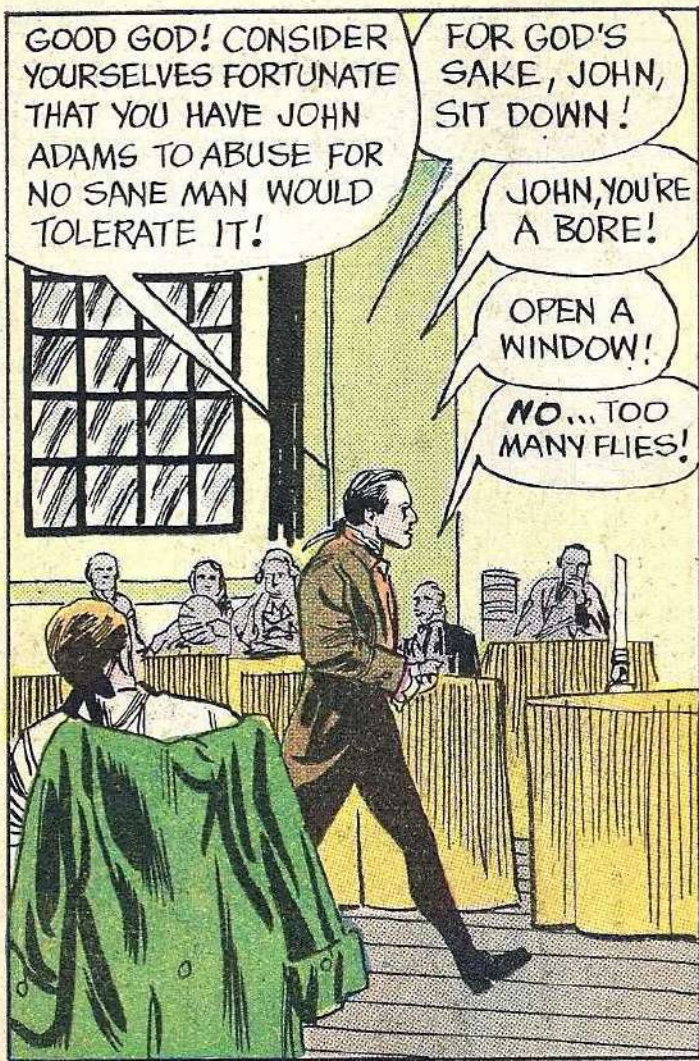
















IN JOHN ADAMS' HOME IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AT THAT MOMENT HIS WIFE ABIGAIL SENSED HIS BITTERNESS AND SHE SPOKE TO HER FAR-AWAY HUSBAND...





BEHIND THE STATE HOUSE, LATER, JOHN ADAMS FOUND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SITTING FOR HIS PORTRAIT...

FRANKLIN! WHERE IN GOD'S NAME HAVE YOU BEEN?

RIGHT HERE, JOHN... BEING PRESERVED FOR POSTERITY! DO YOU LIKE IT?



IT STINKS!

AS EVER, JOHN, YOU'RE THE SOUL OF TACT!



FRANKLIN! WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT WHEN I NEEDED YOU? YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD WHAT I SUFFERED IN THERE!

I HEARD, ALL RIGHT...ALONG WITH THE REST OF PHILADELPHIA!



WHEN WILL THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS? ON THE ONE HAND, THEY RAISE AN ARMY, APPOINT GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COMMAND IT, THEN THEY PETITION KING GEORGE FOR FORGIVENESS AND ASK FOR PEACE!

JOHN, YOU TALK AS IF INDEPENDENCE WERE THE RULE! IT'S NEVER BEEN TRIED BEFORE! NO COLONY HAS EVER BROKEN AWAY FROM ITS PARENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!







DAMN IT, FRANKLIN,  
YOU MAKE US  
SOUND TREASON-  
OUS!

**TREASON?**  
"TREASON IS A  
CHARGE INVENTED  
BY WINNERS AS AN  
EXCUSE TO HANG  
THE LOSERS."



DAMMIT,  
FRANKLIN,  
WE'RE AT  
WAR!

TO DEFEND OURSELVES,  
NOTHING MORE! OUR  
FELLOW CONGRESSMEN  
WANT TO EFFECT A  
RECONCILIATION BEFORE  
IT BECOMES A WAR!



THE **PEOPLE**  
WANT INDEPENDENCE,  
FRANKLIN!

THEY'VE READ THOMAS PAINE'S "COMMON  
SENSE", JOHN... BUT I DOUBT IF THE  
CONGRESS HAS! GIVE IT UP, JOHN... YOU'RE  
**OBNOXIOUS** AND **DISLIKED**!



I'M NOT TRYING TO  
BE POPULAR,  
FRANKLIN... I'M  
PROMOTING  
INDEPENDENCE!

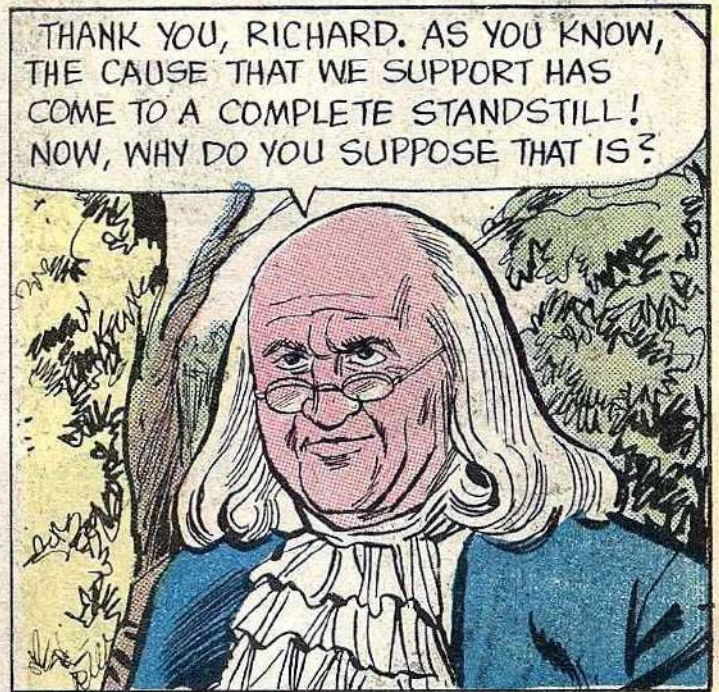
FACE FACTS, MAN!  
YOUR OWN COUSIN,  
SAMUEL ADAMS,  
CAN'T STAND BEING  
AROUND YOU ANY MORE!



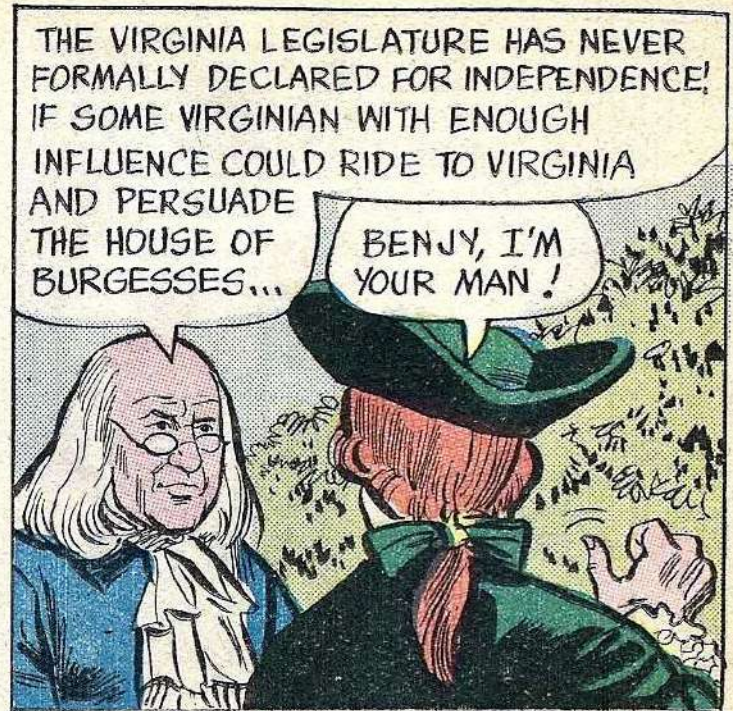
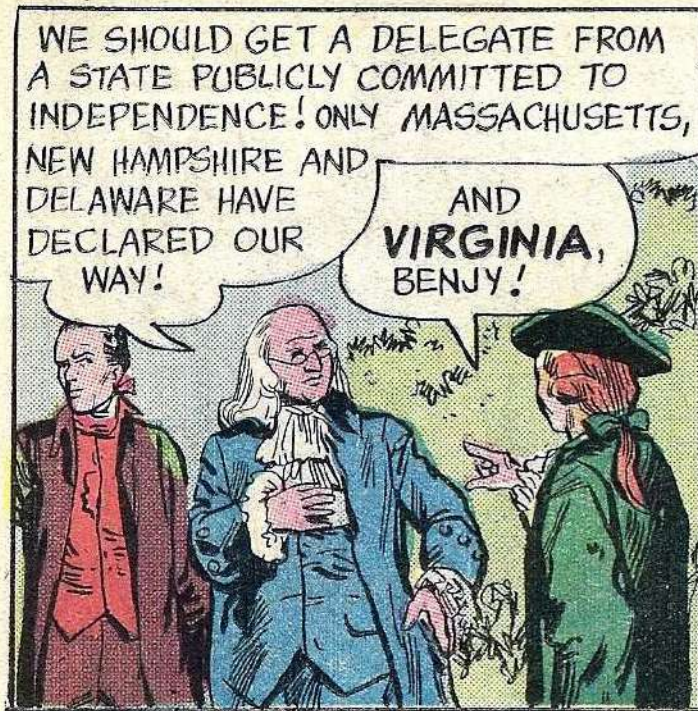
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GETTING  
AT,  
FRANKLIN?

SIMPLY THIS... LET  
SOMEONE ELSE  
PROPOSE INDEPENDENCE  
... SOMEONE **NOT**  
OBNOXIOUS AND  
DISLIKED!

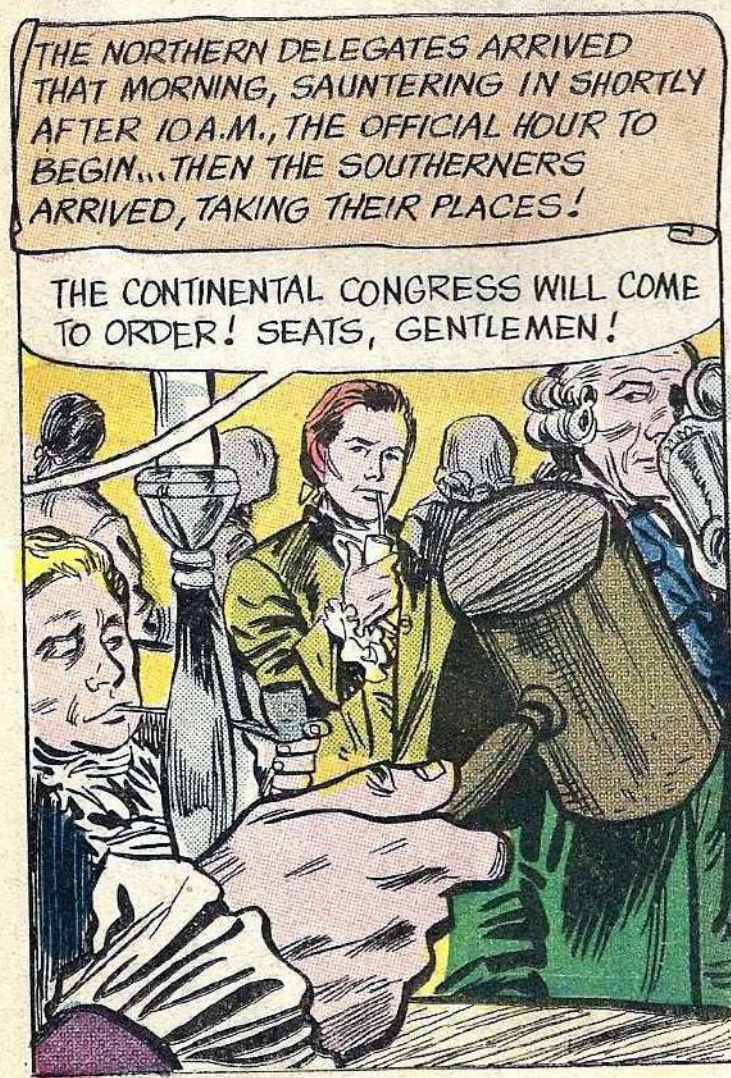




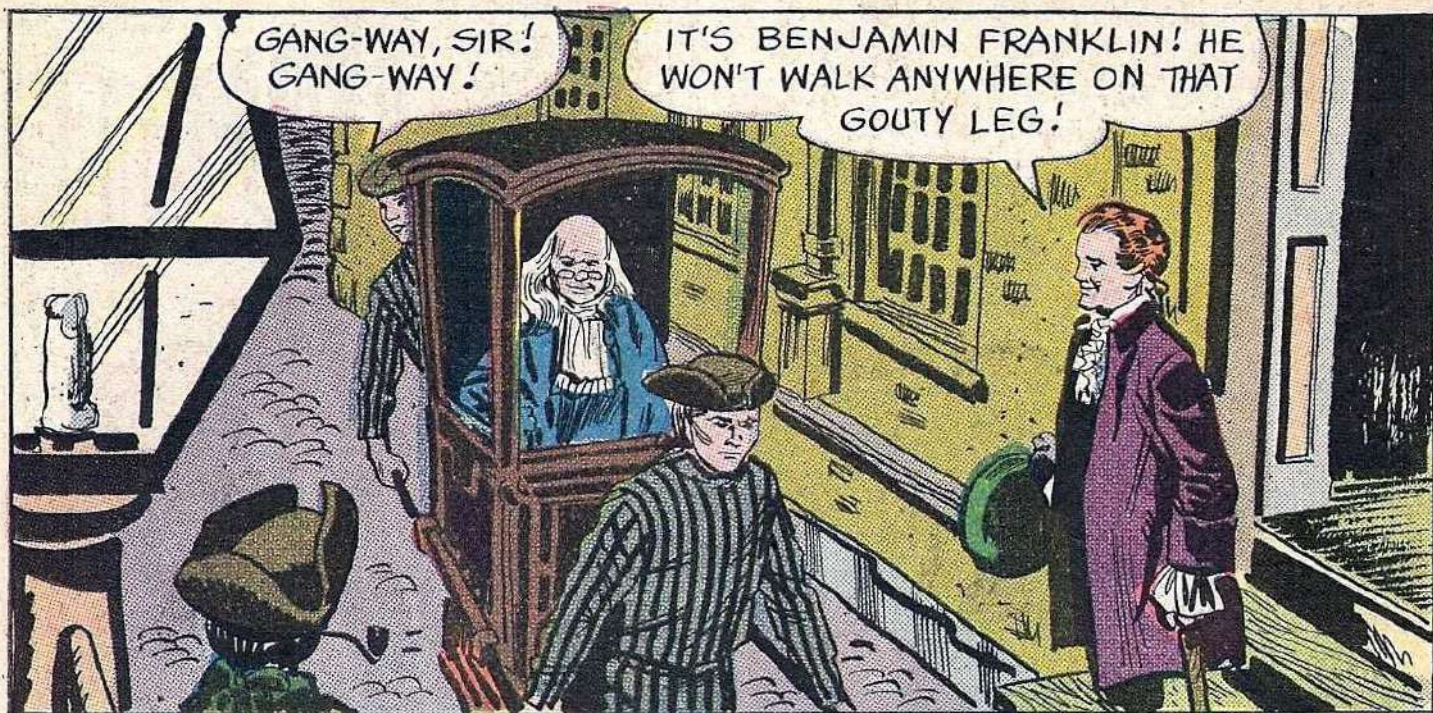












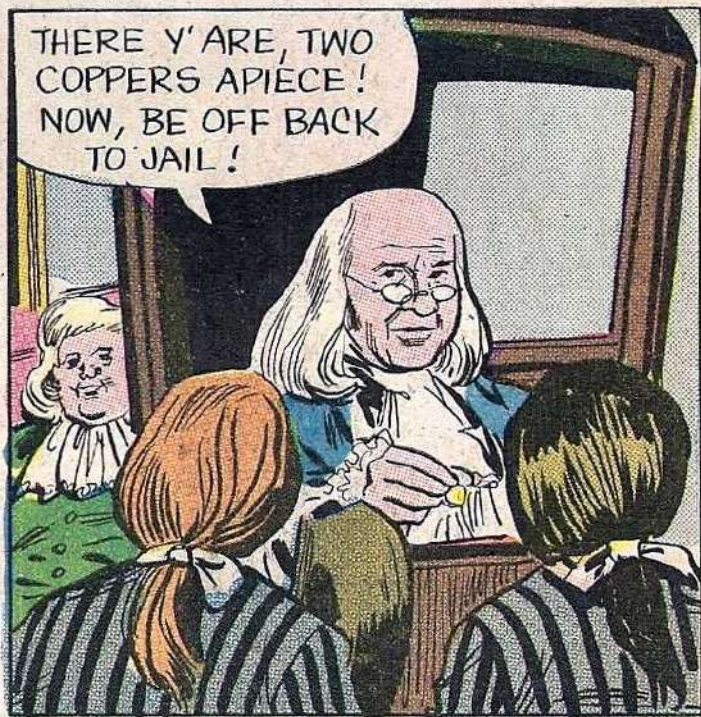
GANG-WAY, SIR!  
GANG-WAY!

IT'S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN! HE  
WON'T WALK ANYWHERE ON THAT  
GOUTY LEG!



GOOD MORNING,  
ALL!

OVER THERE,  
DAMMIT!

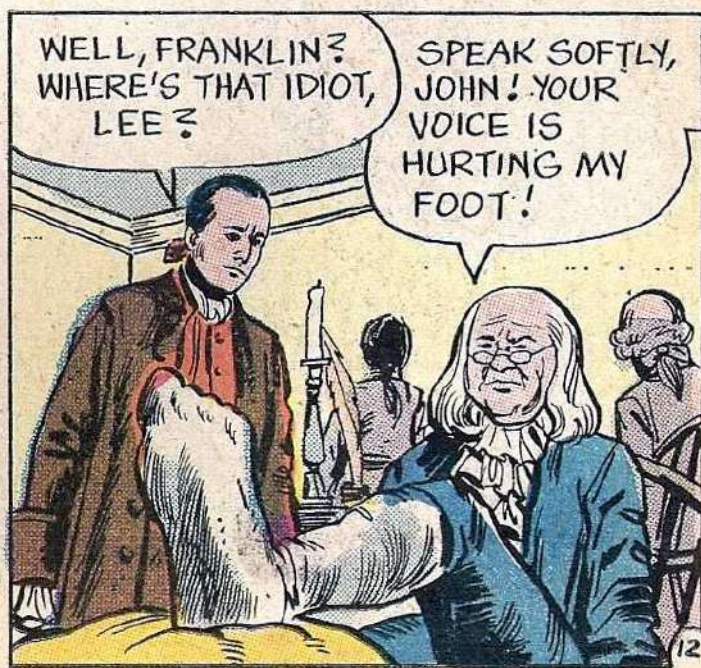


THERE Y' ARE, TWO  
COPPERS A PIECE!  
NOW, BE OFF BACK  
TO JAIL!



WELL? WHAT'RE  
YE STARIN' AT?  
HAVEN'T YOU  
EVER SEEN A  
GREAT MAN  
BEFORE?

YOU MUST  
BE DR.  
FRANKLIN!



WELL, FRANKLIN?  
WHERE'S THAT IDIOT,  
LEE?

SPEAK SOFTLY,  
JOHN! YOUR  
VOICE IS  
HURTING MY  
FOOT!



TELL ME, JAMES... WHY HAVE WE HAD SO MUCH QUIET FROM THE NEW ENGLAND DELEGATION LATELY? THEY HAVEN'T MENTIONED INDEPENDENCE IN **THIRTY DAYS!**



WELL, I....

A MONTH FREE FROM NEW ENGLAND NOISE IS BETTER THAN A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY!



MR. ADAMS, WE MISS YOUR VOICE! IT WAS MOST ENTERTAINING TO THIS CONGRESS!

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN... YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION ...YOU'VE KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT!

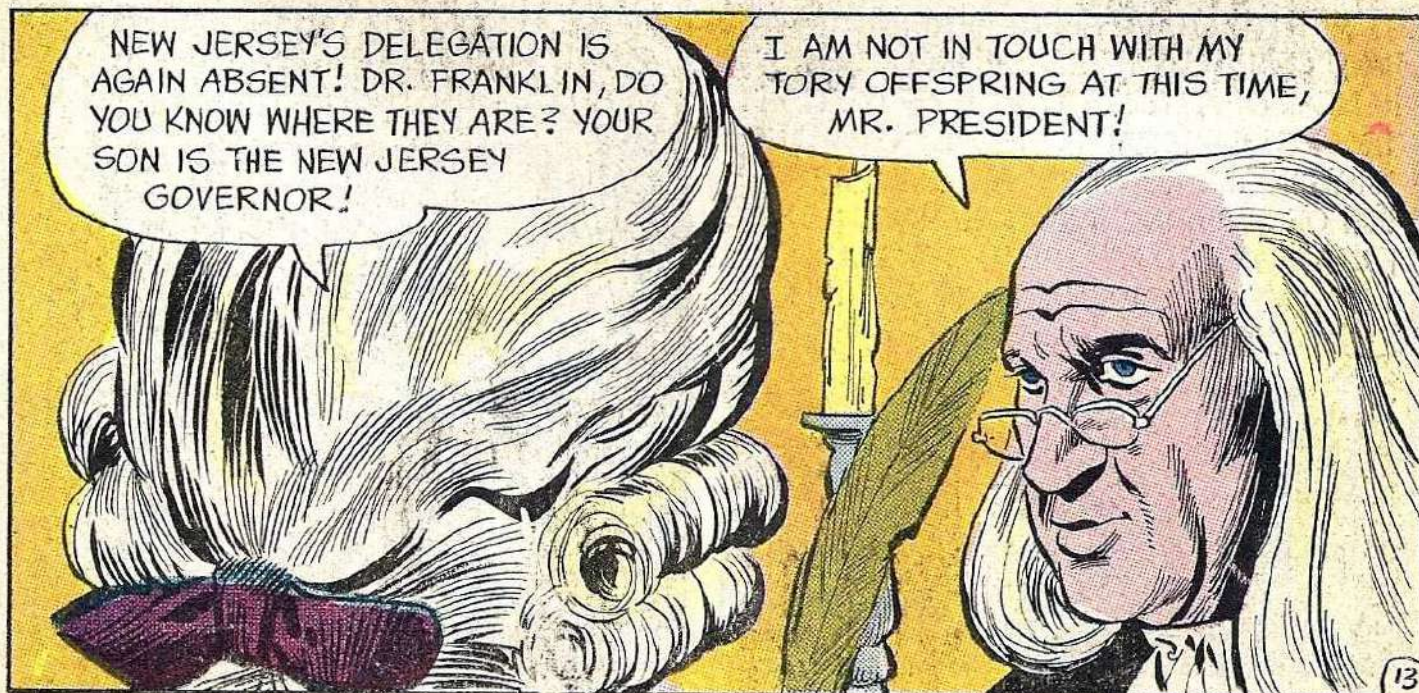


THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, MEETING IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, IS NOW IN SESSION, 7 JUNE 1776, THE 380<sup>TH</sup> MEETING... JOHN HANCOCK OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY, PRESIDENT!

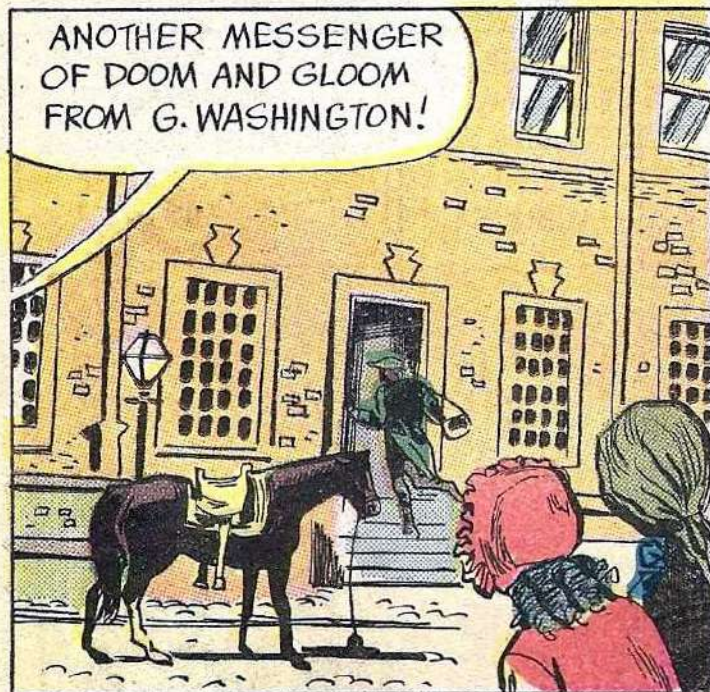


NEW JERSEY'S DELEGATION IS AGAIN ABSENT! DR. FRANKLIN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE? YOUR SON IS THE NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR!

I AM NOT IN TOUCH WITH MY TORY OFFSPRING AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT!











YAHOO! BENNY! I'M  
BACK! JOHNNY ADAMS...



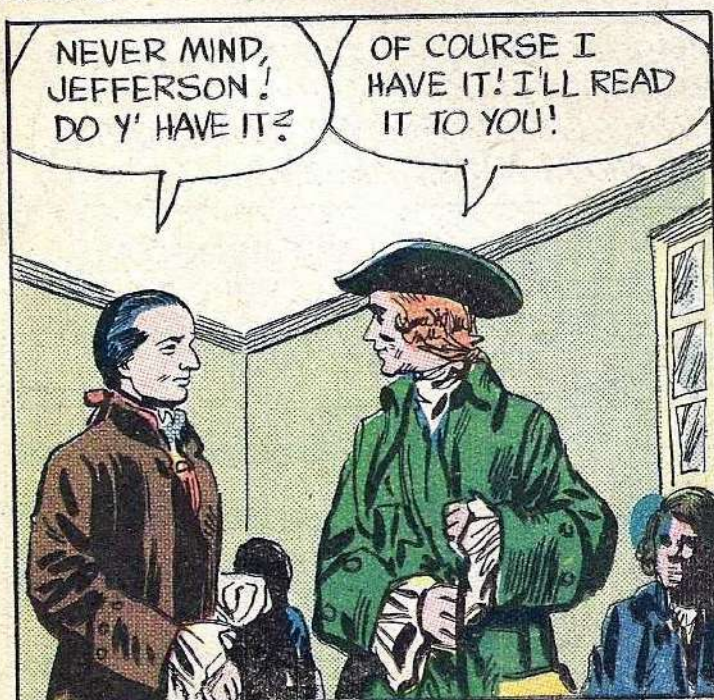
WHAT NEWS,  
DICKIE-BOY...  
WHAT NEWS?

LEE?  
IS IT  
DONE?



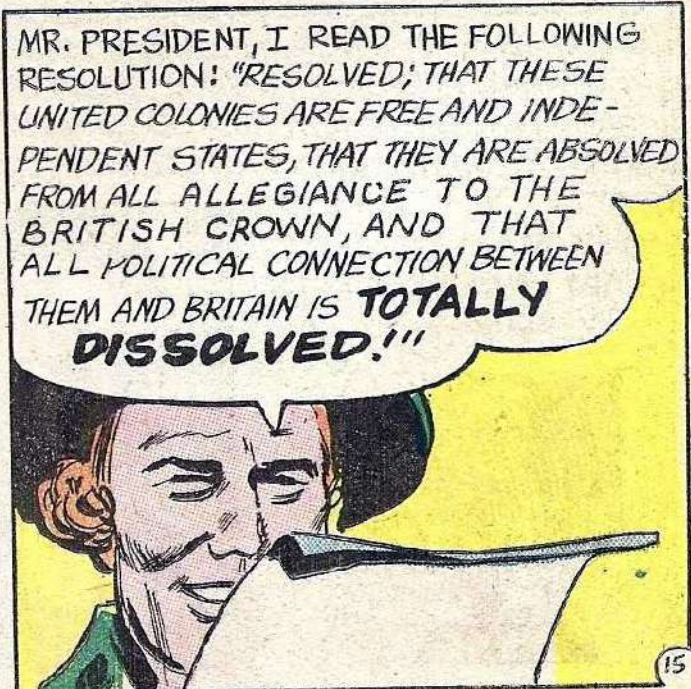
FIRST THINGS FIRST!  
TOM JEFFERSON,  
YOUR BLUSHING  
BRIDE WISHES TO  
KNOW WHEN YOU'RE  
COMING HOME?

I LEAVE  
TONIGHT,  
RICHARD!



NEVER MIND,  
JEFFERSON!  
DO Y' HAVE IT?

OF COURSE I  
HAVE IT! I'LL READ  
IT TO YOU!



MR. PRESIDENT, I READ THE FOLLOWING  
RESOLUTION: "RESOLVED; THAT THESE  
UNITED COLONIES ARE FREE AND INDE-  
PENDENT STATES, THAT THEY ARE ABSOLVED  
FROM ALL ALLEGIANCE TO THE  
BRITISH CROWN, AND THAT  
ALL POLITICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN  
THEM AND BRITAIN IS **TOTALLY  
DISSOLVED!**"



MR. PRESIDENT,  
I SECOND  
VIRGINIA'S  
PROPOSAL!

THE RESOLUTION  
HAS BEEN PROPOSED  
AND SECONDED, THE  
CHAIR WILL NOW  
ENTERTAIN DEBATE!

MR. PRESIDENT, PENNSYLVANIA  
MOVES, AS ALWAYS, THAT THE  
QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE BE  
POSTPONED... INDEFINITELY!

DELAWARE  
SECONDS!

ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE  
INDEFINITELY THE RESOLUTION OF  
INDEPENDENCY OR PROCEED WITH  
THE DEBATE, ALL THOSE IN FAVOR  
OF DEBATE SAY "YEA", ALL THOSE  
FOR POSTPONEMENT, SAY "NAY"...

THE VOTE WAS TAKEN. NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT,  
DELAWARE, VIRGINIA, RHODE ISLAND WERE FOR DEBATE... FIVE,  
PENNSYLVANIA, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA AND MARYLAND WERE  
OPPOSED... ONE (NEW JERSEY) WAS ABSENT AND NEW YORK ABSTAINED!

WHY, MR. ADAMS?  
WHY DO YOU WANT  
INDEPENDENCY?

BECAUSE ENGLAND MEANS ONLY  
CRIPPLING TAXES, CRUEL RE-  
PRESSION AND ABOLISHED RIGHTS,  
MR. DICKINSON!



IS THAT ALL ENGLAND MEANS TO YOU, SIR? SOME MEN, LIKE GENERAL WASHINGTON, ARE PATRIOTS! THOMAS PAINE IS AN ANARCHIST, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AN INTERNATIONALIST, BUT YOU! YOU, SIR ARE AN AGITATOR, DISTURBING THE PEACE, CREATING DISORDER, AND FOR WHAT? BECAUSE OF YOUR PETTY LITTLE COMPLAINTS! ARE THESE THE ACTS OF ENGLISHMEN?

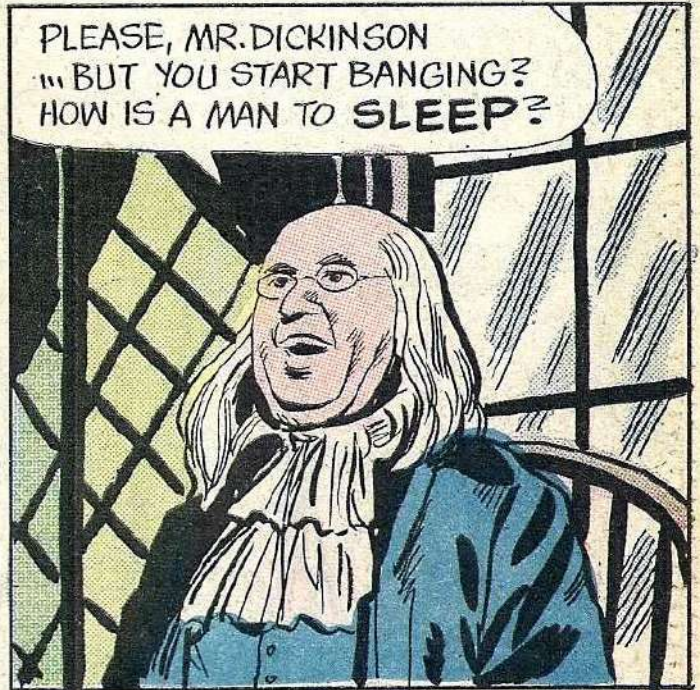


NOT ENGLISHMEN, DICKINSON ... AMERICANS!

**ENGLISHMEN!**



PLEASE, MR. DICKINSON ... BUT YOU START BANGING? HOW IS A MAN TO SLEEP?



FORGIVE ME, DR. FRANKLIN, BUT MUST YOU START **SPEAKING?** HOW IS A MAN TO STAY **AWAKE?**

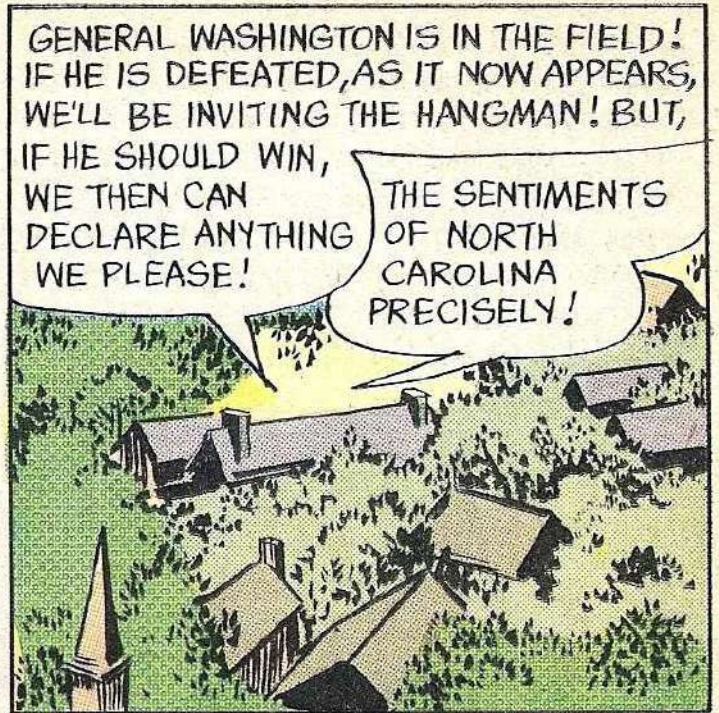


IF I'M TO BE CALLED AN ENGLISHMAN, DICKINSON, I PREFER TO REMAIN ASLEEP!

WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE ABOUT BEING CALLED AN ENGLISHMAN? THE ENGLISH DON'T SEEM TO MIND.









YOU PENNSYLVANIA PROPRIETORS...YOU COOL, CONSIDERATE MEN! YOU KEEP TO THE REAR OF EVERY ISSUE SO IF WE SHOULD GO UNDER YOU'LL REMAIN AFLOAT!

ARE YOU CALLING ME A COWARD?



YES... COWARD! MAD-MAN!



LANDLORD!

LAWYER!



WHACK HIM BACK, JOHN!



HO, SPARTACUS!

STOP THEM! SHAME!

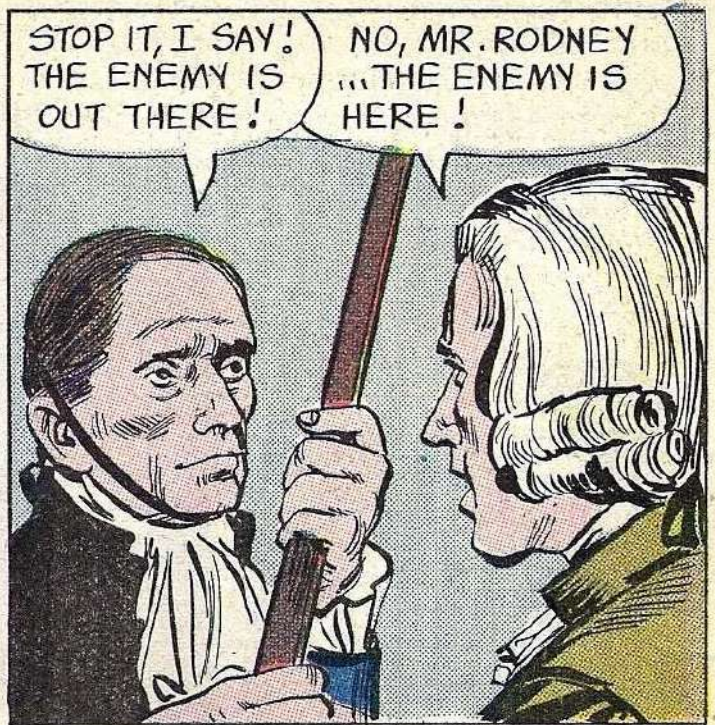






STOP IT!  
THIS IS  
THE  
CONGRESS!

**BLAAM**



STOP IT, I SAY!  
THE ENEMY IS  
OUT THERE!

NO, MR. RODNEY  
...THE ENEMY IS  
HERE!



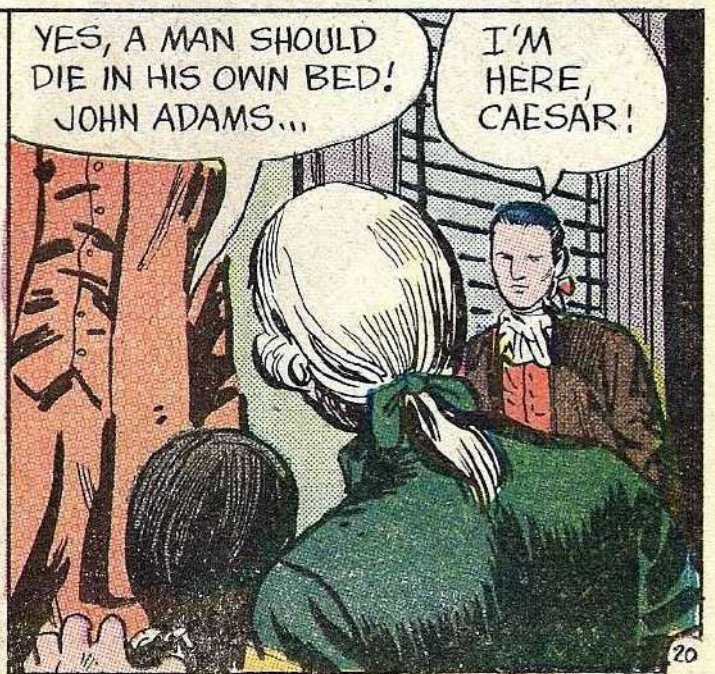
NO... HE'S OUT THERE... ENGLAND  
IS OUR ENEMY... CLOSING IN...  
CUTTING OFF OUR AIR... CAN'T  
BREATHE... NO AIR....

DR. HALL! CAESAR  
RODNEY IS ILL!



IT'S THE CANCER,  
DR. HALL!

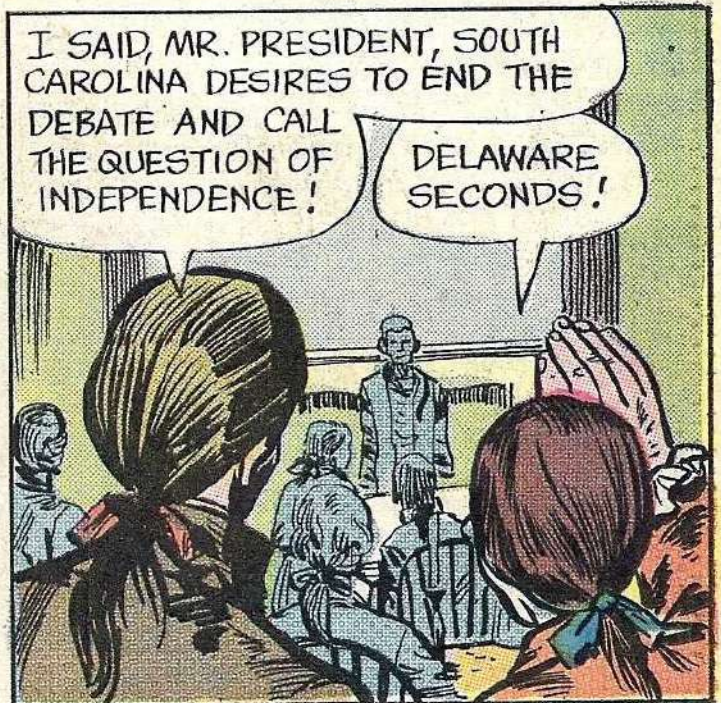
HE SHOULD  
GO HOME!



YES, A MAN SHOULD  
DIE IN HIS OWN BED!  
JOHN ADAMS...

I'M  
HERE,  
CAESAR!







EXCUSE ME, SIRs, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, THE CONGRESS WAS ABOUT TO DECIDE THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE!

SPLENDID! THEN WE'RE NOT TOO LATE! THESE GENTLEMEN ARE MR. FRANCIS HOPKINSON AND MR. RICHARD STOCKTON AND I AM REVEREND JOHN WITHERSPOON. WE'RE THE NEW DELEGATES FROM NEW JERSEY!



DR. FRANKLIN, I REGRET I MUST BE THE BEARER OF UNHAPPY TIDINGS! YOUR SON, THE ROYAL GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY, HAS BEEN TAKEN PRISONER AND MOVED UNDER GUARD TO CONNECTICUT!



QUICKLY, MAN... WHERE DO Y' STAND ON INDEPENDENCE?

HAVEN'T WE MADE THAT CLEAR? WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VOTE **FOR** INDEPENDENCE!



MR. PRESIDENT, MASSACHUSETTS IS NOW READY FOR THE VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE AND REMINDS THE CHAIR OF ITS PRIVILEGE OF DECIDING ALL VOTES WHICH ARE DEADLOCKED!



I WON'T FORGET, MR. ADAMS! MR. THOMPSON, YOU MAY NOW PROCEED WITH THE VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE!

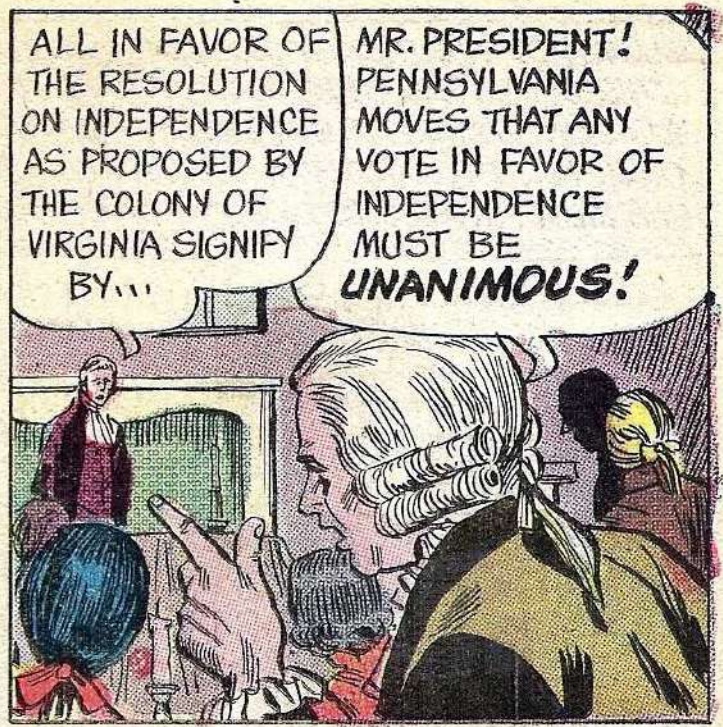






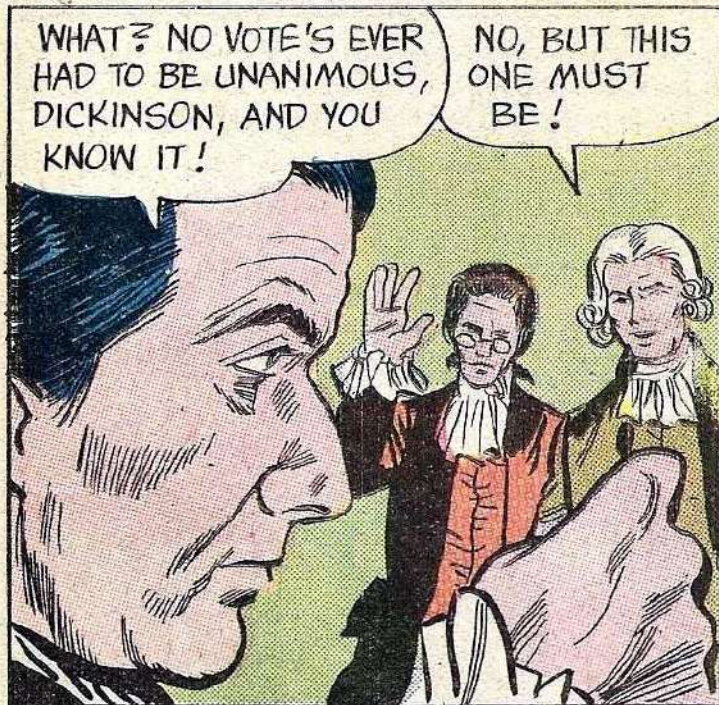
DO SOMETHING,  
DICKINSON!!

KEEP QUIET SO  
I CAN THINK, MR.  
WILSON!



ALL IN FAVOR OF  
THE RESOLUTION  
ON INDEPENDENCE  
AS PROPOSED BY  
THE COLONY OF  
VIRGINIA SIGNIFY  
BY...

MR. PRESIDENT!  
PENNSYLVANIA  
MOVES THAT ANY  
VOTE IN FAVOR OF  
INDEPENDENCE  
MUST BE  
**UNANIMOUS!**



WHAT? NO VOTE'S EVER  
HAD TO BE UNANIMOUS,  
DICKINSON, AND YOU  
KNOW IT!

NO, BUT THIS  
ONE MUST  
BE!



ON WHAT  
GROUNDS,  
SIR?

THAT NO COLONY BE  
TORN FROM ITS MOTHER  
COUNTRY WITHOUT ITS  
OWN CONSENT!



ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF A  
VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE  
BEING UNANIMOUS SIGNIFY  
BY SAYING "YEA"...



SIX VOTES WERE CAST IN FAVOR OF UNANIMOUS VOTING FOR INDEPENDENCE...THE SIX VOTES WERE CAST AGAINST UNANIMOUS VOTING. BECAUSE NEW YORK ONCE MORE ABSTAINED FROM CASTING HER VOTE! THIS LEFT THE DECISION SQUARELY IN THE LAP OF JOHN HANCOCK...WHO VOTED FOR UNANIMITY...AGAINST JOHN ADAMS AND THE OTHERS FROM THE NORTH!

GOOD GOD, JOHN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? YOU'VE SUNK US!

DON'T YOU SEE THAT ANY COLONY WHO OPPOSES INDEPENDENCE WILL BE FORCED TO FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF ENGLAND...THAT WE'LL BE SETTING BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER...EITHER WE WALK TOGETHER OR WE MUST STAY WHERE WE ARE!



A UNANIMOUS VOTE BEING NECESSARY TO CARRY, IF ANY BE OPPOSED TO THE RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENCE...

**MR. PRESIDENT!**



MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE FOR A POSTPONEMENT!

MR. ADAMS IS RIGHT... WE NEED A POSTPONEMENT!



ON WHAT GROUNDS, MR. ADAMS?

MR. PRESIDENT, HOW CAN THIS CONGRESS VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT A WRITTEN DECLARATION OF SOME SORT DEFINING IT!



WE KNOW WHAT INDEPENDENCE IS, JOHN!

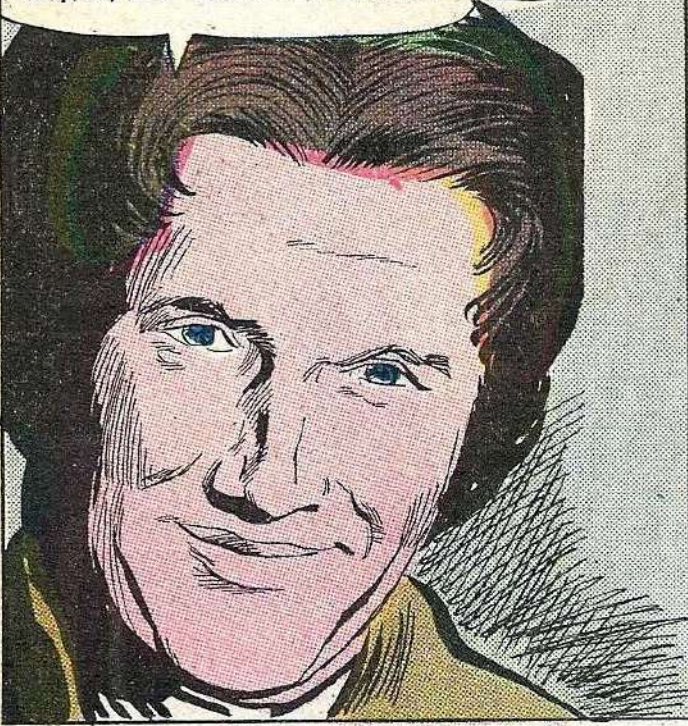
WELL, YES, **WE** KNOW... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD? CERTAINLY WE REQUIRE THE AID OF A POWERFUL NATION LIKE FRANCE OR SPAIN.. AND SUCH A DECLARATION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH EUROPEAN DELICACY!





THEN, THOMAS JEFFERSON, THE SILENT MAN, SPOKE... HE DID SO RARELY BUT WHEN HE DID, PEOPLE LISTENED!

TO PLACE BEFORE MANKIND THE COMMON SENSE OF THE SUBJECT... IN TERMS SO PLAIN AND FIRM AS TO COMMAND THEIR ASSENT!

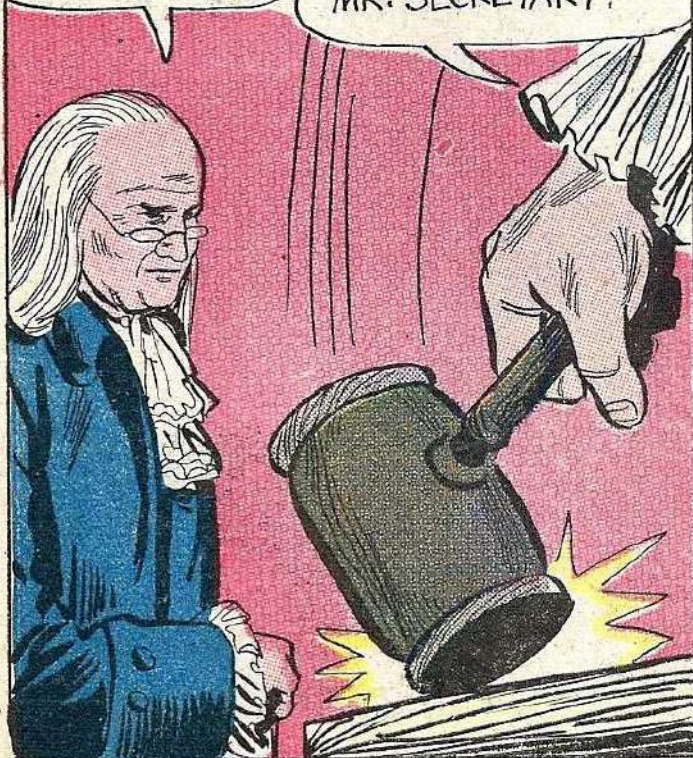


ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING WE PUBLISH A PAPER DECLARING TO ALL THE WORLD THAT AN ILLEGAL REBELLION IS, IN REALITY, A LEGAL ONE?



MR. PRESIDENT, I SECOND THE MOTION TO POSTPONE THE VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME SUFFICIENT FOR THE WRITING OF A DECLARATION!

IT HAS BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED, MR. SECRETARY!

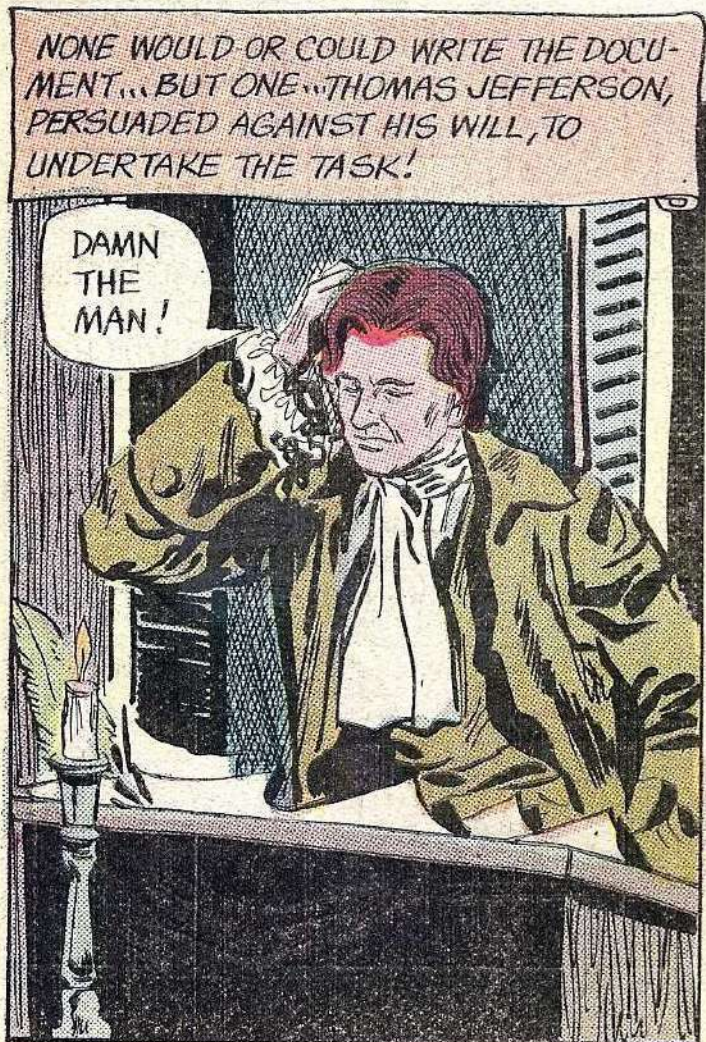


IT WENT TO A VOTE! 6 VOTED "YEA", 6 VOTED "NAY" AND JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT, VOTED FOR THE POSTPONEMENT!

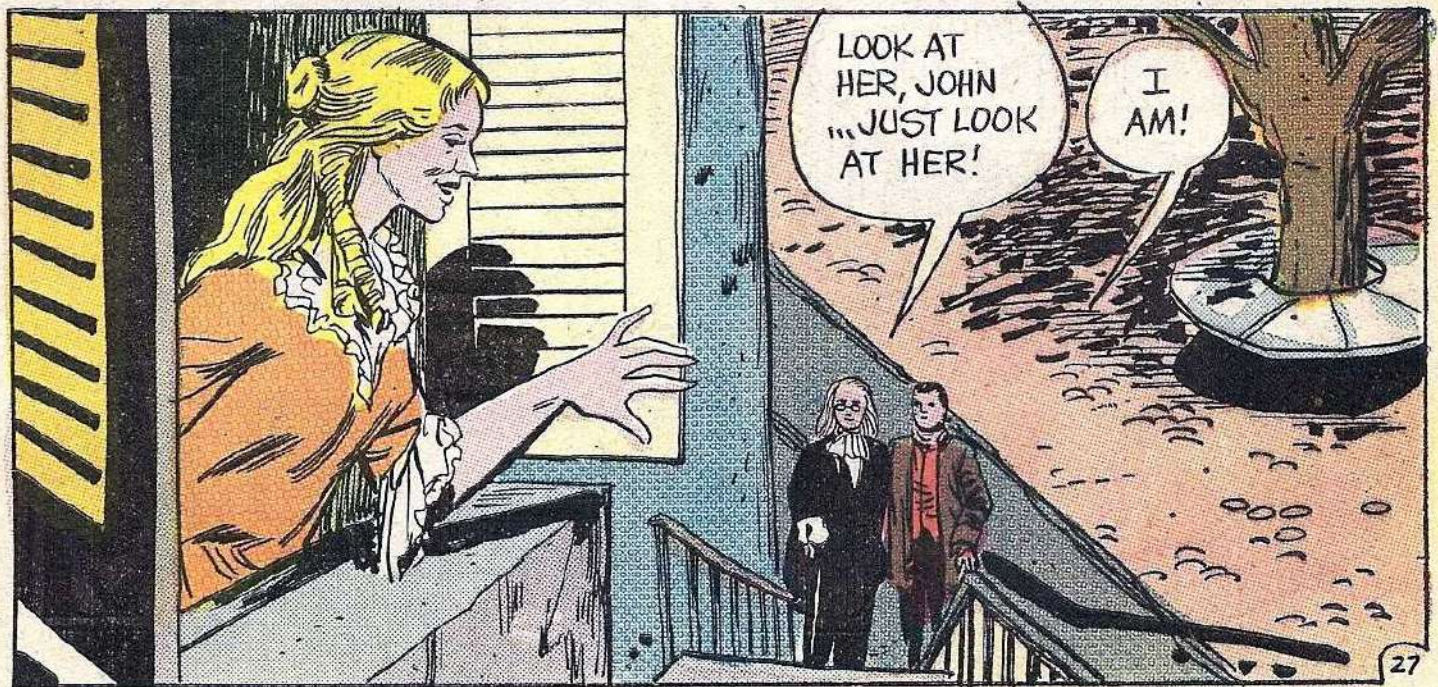
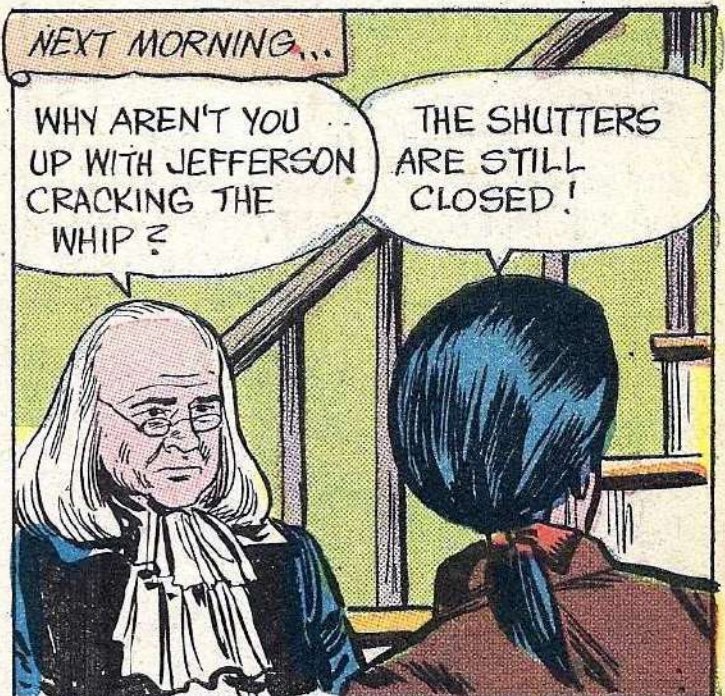
A COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED TO MANAGE THE DECLARATION, SAID DOCUMENT TO BE WRITTEN, DEBATED AND APPROVED BY THE BEGINNING OF JULY, SOME THREE WEEKS HENCE, AT WHICH TIME VIRGINIA'S RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENCE WILL FINALLY BE VOTED ON! WILL THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN SERVE ON THE DECLARATION COMMITTEE; DR. FRANKLIN, MR. JOHN ADAMS, MR. SHERMAN, MR. LIVINGSTON AND OF COURSE MR. LEE.













[illegible]

GET TO  
WHAT,  
JOHN?

WE'VE GOT SIX  
"NAYS" TO CHANGE  
TO "YEAS" BUT  
WHERE DO WE  
START?

HOW ABOUT  
DELAWARE? IS  
THERE ANY NEWS  
OF CAESAR RODNEY?

HOW ABOUT  
DELAWARE? IS  
THERE ANY NEWS  
OF CAESAR RODNEY?

THE LIBERALS (THOSE FOR LIBERTY) HARANGUED THE ANTI-INDEPENDENCE FACTION...

BUT WHY AREN'T YOU FOR INDEPENDENCE, CHASE?

IF I THOUGHT WE'D WIN THIS WAR, I'D BE WITH YOU, ADAMS, BUT WASHINGTON'S ARMY HAS FALLEN APART!

IF I THOUGHT WE'D  
WIN THIS WAR, I'D  
BE WITH YOU, ADAMS,  
BUT WASHINGTON'S  
ARMY HAS FALLEN  
APART!

ANOTHER DISPATCH FROM  
GENERAL WASHINGTON TELLING  
US HIS TROUBLES!



AT LAST, THE DECLARATION WAS FINISHED... THAT IS, AS THOMAS JEFFERSON HAD WRITTEN IT, **BUT...**

MR. JEFFERSON, YOU MUST STRIKE OUT THE PHRASE...

SIR, IF YOU OFFEND. BRITISH PARLIAMENT...

IT MUST BE CHANGED!



AND CHANGES WERE MADE... MORE THAN 87 CORRECTIONS TO THE ORIGINAL... BUT AT LAST...

THE CONGRESS WILL NOW VOTE ON VIRGINIA'S RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENCE!

CALL THE ROLL, MR. THOMPSON, AND LET ME REMIND YOU, GENTLEMEN, A SINGLE "YEA" VOTE WILL DEFEAT THE MOTION!



NEW HAMPSHIRE!

NEW HAMPSHIRE SAYS "YEA"!  
MASSACHUSETTS...

MASSACHUSETTS SAYS "YEA".  
RHODE ISLAND...

NEW HAMPSHIRE SAYS "YEA".

MASSACHUSETTS SAYS "YEA".





ELEVEN STATES VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE, NEW YORK ABSTAINED AND PENNSYLVANIA STILL HAD TO CAST HER VOTE! JOHN DICKINSON, IMPLACABLE FOE OF REVOLT AGAINST ENGLAND, WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS VOTE! BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ARGUED VAINLY WITH HIM, THEN TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO JAMES WILSON, THIRD MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION!

I AM FOR LIBERTY, JUDGE WILSON...MR. DICKINSON IS AGAINST IT...IT IS FOR YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT A NEW NATION WILL BE BORN OR DIE!

NOTHING HAS CHANGED, JAMES...YOU'RE STILL OPPOSED TO THEIR DECLARATION!

WE'VE COMPROMISED, JUDGE WILSON...NOW THE ENTIRE VOTE IS UP TO YOU!

IF I VOTE AGAINST IT, I SHALL BE ONE MAN WHO CONDEMNED LIBERTY... IF I VOTE FOR IT, I'LL BE ONLY ONE OF DOZENS WHO DID SO! I VOTE "YEA" FOR VIRGINIA'S RESOLUTION!

THE COUNT BEING TWELVE TO NONE WITH ONE ABSTENTION...THE RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED!

IT'S DONE!  
IT'S DONE!





MR. THOMPSON, IS THE DECLARATION READY TO BE SIGNED?

IT IS!



THEN I SUGGEST WE DO SO. AND THE CHAIR FURTHER PROPOSES FOR OUR MUTUAL SECURITY AND SAFETY AND NO MAN BE ALLOWED TO SIT IN THIS CONGRESS WITHOUT ATTACHING HIS NAME TO IT!

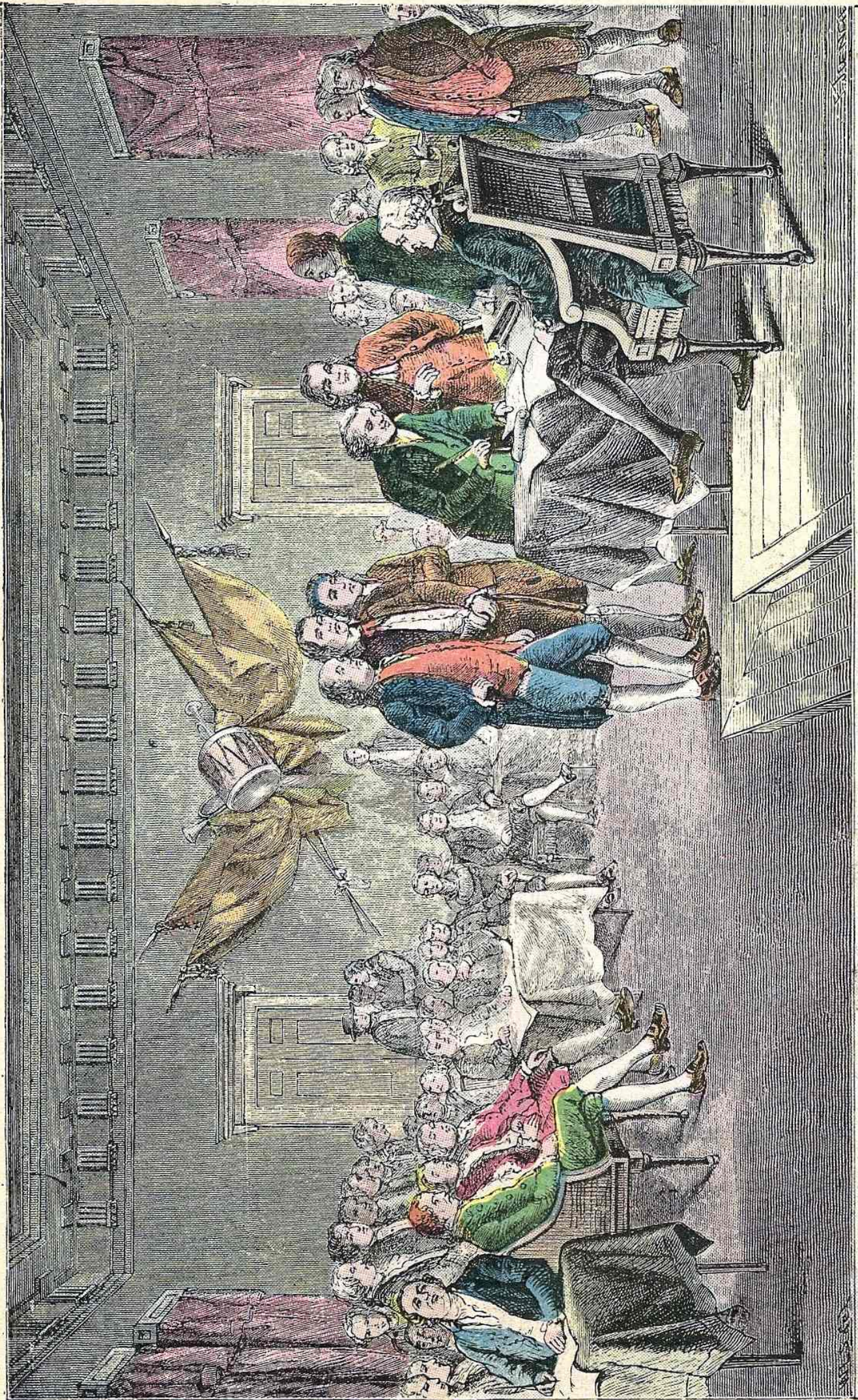
I'M SORRY, MR. PRESIDENT, I CANNOT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, SIGN SUCH A DOCUMENT. I WILL NEVER STOP HOPING FOR OUR EVENTUAL RECONCILIATION WITH ENGLAND, BUT BECAUSE IN MY OWN WAY I REGARD AMERICA NO LESS THAN DOES MR. ADAMS, I WILL JOIN THE ARMY AND FIGHT IN HER DEFENSE! GOOD-BYE, GENTLEMEN.



THAT'S A PRETTY LARGE SIGNATURE, JOHNNY!

SO FAT GEORGE IN LONDON CAN READ IT WITHOUT HIS GLASSES!





SIGNING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

glories among the flowers of the earth. The paper at equal pains to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God unite them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to this separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. — That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all future constitutions shall provide no more dangerous remedy than to reform them under prudent negotiation, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the urgency which constrains them to alter their former system of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be presented to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right in itself not alien and inseparable from rights reserved unto them only. He has called illegal Legislative Bodies into places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their public Councils, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them and obstructing them. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. He has refused to assent to Acts of great importance, to cause others to be enacted, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have received to the night of time, the most extensive and insupportable extension of power. He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States, for the purpose of obviating the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising his objections of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their Offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their substance. He has kept among us in times of peace standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. He has affected to make the Military independent of and superior to the civil Power. He has incited one set of our Brethren against another, by giving his assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation. He has quartered large bodies of armed troops among us. He has protected them, by a mock Trial from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States. He has excited one set of British Subjects against another, by exciting them to bear arms against the Liberties of the Colonies. He has attempted to excite the Treason of the Colonies against the Mother Country, by exciting them to bear arms against the Liberties of the Colonies. He has attempted to excite the Treason of the Colonies against the Mother Country, by exciting them to bear arms against the Liberties of the Colonies.

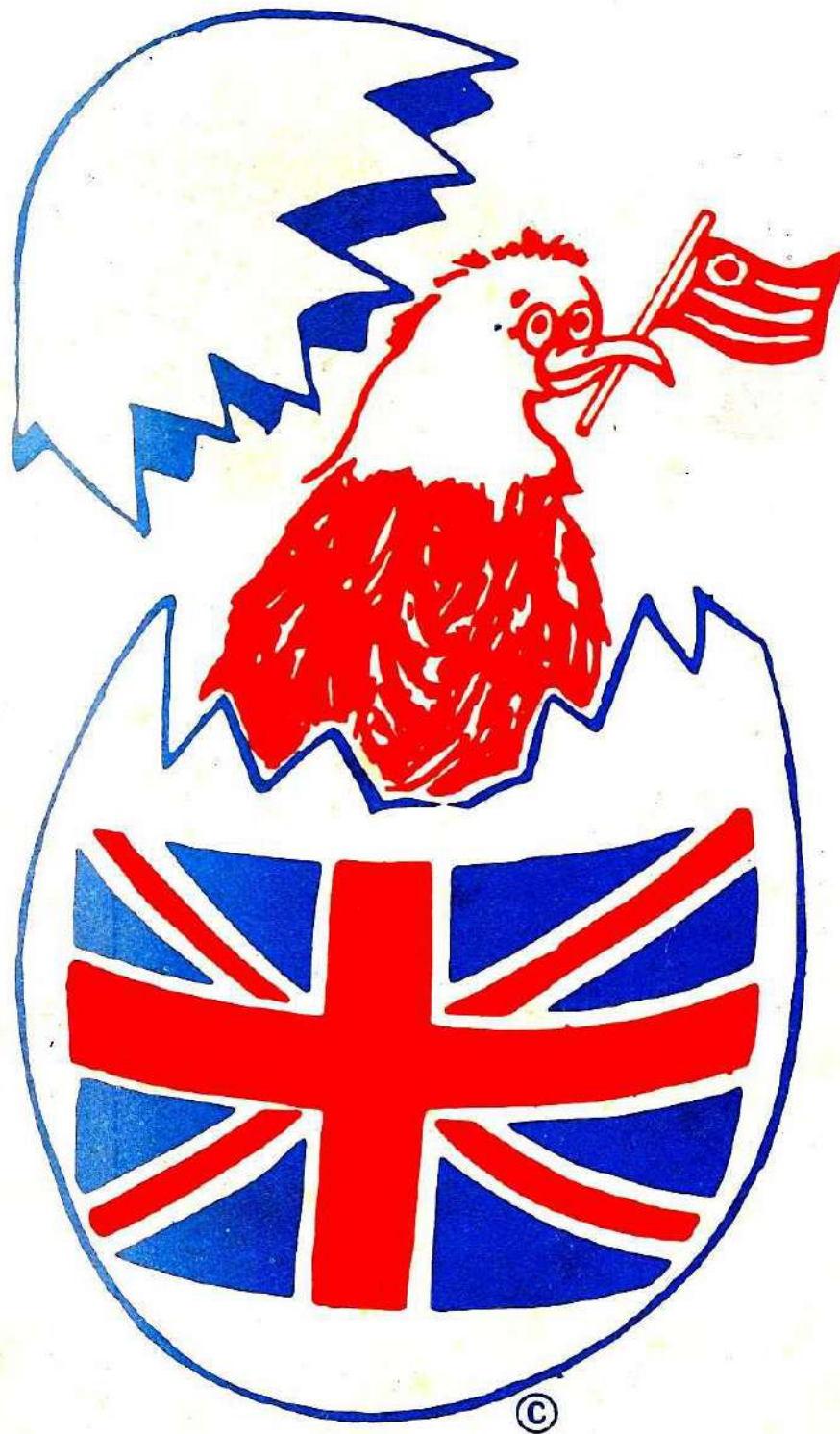
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and swearing War against us. He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our People. He has thrown away the lives of our brave Men in vain attempts to the utter annihilation of this invincible force. He has trampled upon the Honors of the United States, by declaring us out of his Protection and swearing War against us. He has trampled upon the Honors of the United States, by declaring us out of his Protection and swearing War against us. He has trampled upon the Honors of the United States, by declaring us out of his Protection and swearing War against us.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Alliance, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

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